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Newsletter

Volume 34

February 1997

Number 1

The Administrator's Message:

Record snow pack and current conditions have tired us all of this persistent winter weather. The potential it poses for flooding has generated a need for a heightened level of preparedness. Before we plan for the future, I would like to reflect on an eventful 1996.

There were 13 Gubernatorial Incident, Emergency or Disaster declarations in 1996. Two of the flooding episodes resulted in Presidential Disaster Declarations while one wildland fire initiated a Federal Fire Suppression Declaration. All this activity has kept the state and many local jurisdictions extremely busy. The hectic pace, however, has had positive results for us. The experiences gained on large, extended incidents has empowered us to be better-prepared for the future.

A couple of other significant events have occurred this past year. Bill Murray, Cascade County Coordinator for 29 years left government service. Kim Potter, Flathead County Coordinator passed away after a long struggle with cancer. Both of these individuals have contributed greatly to emergency management over the years and have played a significant part in the success of Montana's Disaster and Emergency Services programs. We sadly say goodbye to these two dedicated individuals who selflessly applied their efforts and will remain a legacy in our profession.

The events of this past year have affected us all in several different ways. Hopefully these experiences will give us the knowledge, innovation and fortitude needed to meet the major challenges we will surely face in 1997. In addition to some excellent training, the Governor's Conference for Disaster Preparedness will provide us with an opportunity to learn from those affected in 1996.

Jim Greene
Administrator



From the Editor:

*Y*ou may not have even gotten through your last newsletter yet and I'm already sending out a new one. There is a reason! It was a convenient way to get some information out on the upcoming Governor's Conference and it also helped get us back to our regular newsletter schedule.

This main intent of this edition is to provide you with information on the Governor's Conference being held this month in Helena. Hopefully, you will find the answers to any questions you may have. If not, please call our office. This should be a great conference and we will be happy to help.

Until next time!

P.S. Check out WWW on page 6! It lists some great addresses for you to visit on the Internet.

Monique T. Lay

It's Time to do a Household Inventory

USAA Magazine published a good article called "Why you need a household inventory" in their Dec 1996/Jan 1997 issue. I requested permission to reprint it and was denied, so....here it is in my own words.

Citing a \$4 million raid on the home of a career criminal, this article explained how police in a particular incident had confiscated an assortment of valuable art, jewelry, precious metals and more. Although 7,000 of the victims of these crimes appeared to claim their possessions, 40% of the items were left non-returned due to the claimants' inability to prove ownership with proofs of sale, appraisals,

photographs, videos or other identifying documentation. (Recognition, unfortunately, does not prove ownership). This \$1.6 million worth of unreturned stolen items was ultimately sold at a public auction.

Following the trauma of losing possessions a person may be unable or find it difficult to recall every item that may have been stolen or destroyed. Purchasing a home-owner's or renter's policy should be your initial step in the process. This will help re-place your belongings while an inventory will ease your worries by readily identifying what needs to be replaced. An inventory should include a list of your possessions, documentation of their value, such as receipts or appraisals, and proof you actually do own the item(s) by having a title or photographs of the item(s). It is very important to keep this up-to-date and located in a "safe" place.

Many of us realize that thieves are not the only threat to our possessions. Floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes and even severe weather can cause devastation and incur losses of our possessions. The increase in the magnitude of natural disasters over the past few years should provide ample motivation to inventory and document ownership of your belongings. It appears 1997 may be a continuation of the same enduring pace of disasters we experienced in 1996.

Make sure you are prepared!

Monique T. Lay

Thank You!

*Thank you to these individuals for
contributing to this newsletter:*

Jim Greene
Fred Cowie
Larry Akers

Bob Fry
Fred Nacher
Marlys Cain

1997

by: Larry Akers

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Preparing for the upcoming Governor's Conference has reached a hectic pace around here. Here are a few reminders for you.

The conference will be held in Helena, Montana at the Best Western Colonial Inn, February 26-28, 1997. This year's conference promises to be the best yet as there are many interesting topics. Train wrecks seem quite popular as is anything dealing with ICS. This year's guest dignitaries and speakers include: Governor Marc Racicot and Mr. Michael Armstrong, Director - FEMA Region VIII.

DES will once again sponsor the conference in conjunction with the Montana Association of Counties (MACo). Workshops and presentations occur throughout the week. MACo begins their conference on Monday, February 24th. The traditional Governor's Conference on Emergency Management will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26 and will conclude at noon on Friday, February 28, 1997. As is customary, the Governor will address the conference during the luncheon on Wednesday.

The speaker for the banquet later that evening will be Lt. Governor Judy Martz.

Early Registration will be from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 23. Registration will begin again at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, February 24th and run through noon on Friday, February 28th in the lobby of the Colonial Inn. There will be a social gathering at the Colonial Inn's Natatorium Tuesday, February 25th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Western Research Institute, one of our conference's vendors. This will be a great opportunity to look up old friends and make new ones.


We hope your schedule will permit your attendance at the conference and its related activities. Your spouse /guest is welcome to attend all conference functions. For motel reservation information contact Karen Houston, MACO, at 406-442-5209. Your points of contact at DES are Dan McGowan or Jim Greene at 406-444-6911.

We'll See You There!

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HazMat

The HazMat (Hazardous Materials) Program has been instrumental in working with Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana Highway Patrol in the development of in-house First Responder Awareness Level One trainees. In addition, we have worked closely with state agencies, the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County (through Paul Spengler) in training state, city and county responders to First Responder Awareness Level One.

Fred Cowie
HazMat Program Manager




CHEMTREC®, the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, has a place on the Chemical Manufacturers Association's (CMA) World Wide Web site.

CHEMTREC® is a chemical spill and information center, providing emergency assistance to callers with chemical incidents. CHEMTREC® also provides a range of non-emergency information and referral services to the emergency response community, the chemical and transportation industries, and the general public. The CHEMTREC® page provides information on the services and assistance available through CHEMTREC®. The CMA site is also linked to several CMA member companies. Plans are to expand in the near future to include links to related government and industry sites as well as enhanced CHEMTREC® information.

To visit the CHEMTREC® web site, go to:
<http://www.cmahq.com/> and click on the CHEMTREC® icon.

<http://www.cmahq.com/>
click on the CHEMTREC® icon.

Questions or requests for information can also be sent to CHEMTREC via e-mail to:
chemtrec@mail.cmahq.com or ☎(800) 262-8200

[Chemtrec@mail.cmahq.com/](mailto:Chemtrec@mail.cmahq.com)
e-mail address

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
WORKING TEAM

I am hoping to distribute the first version of the All-hazard taskbooks at the Governor's Conference in February. I presently have the final draft available and if someone would like a copy give me a call at ☎(406) 222-4430, drop me an e-mail message at bobfry@mcn.net, or mail me at 24 Fleshman Creek Road, Suite one, Livingston, MT 59047. If you would like more information about the ICS Working Team, you can contact me the same way.

Bob Fry
District III Representative


News From District III

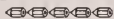
In my last newsletter article I reported that Mike Bohne was resigning. He has decided to stay with his position until at least June, giving the Bighorn County Commissioners time to find a replacement.

We have two new coordinators in Broadwater and Wheatland counties. Mike Koehnke has taken over in Broadwater County. Mike has been involved with the EMS and fire in Broadwater County and now widens his emergency management scope.

Les Christenson is Wheatland County's DES Coordinator. Les is the undersheriff and works periodically with the road department.

Last, but not least, are the present winter conditions which could lead to spring flooding. This year has the potential to be a very busy and devastating flooding season. If you need sandbags, now is the time to buy. Also, any planning or preparedness measures I can help you with, let me know. I expect this will be another busy year for us.

Bob Fry
District III Representative



More on...

Household Inventories:

Volumes could be written on protecting your possessions - and they have! Supplementing the article on page 2, here are a few sources and resources taken from the January 13, 1997 issue of the Great Falls Tribune. Take advantage of this information. You can utilize it to learn more about protecting your personal possessions. For the price of a stamp, you can ensure you are adequately covered in the event you experience a disaster.

Where to get more information

☛ "How to Get Your Money's Worth in Home and Auto Insurance," by Barbara Taylor (McGraw-Hill).

☛ Pamphlets available from the Insurance Information Institute include "Insurance for Your House and Personal Possessions," "Taking Inventory" and Here Today? Gone Tomorrow?," about insurance coverage for renters. For free single copies, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Insurance Information Institute, 110 William Street, New York, NY 10038. Attention: FB

☛ Various computer programs, including Quicken, can facilitate an inventory of your household possessions to use in the event of losses or damage.

☛ For a guide to safeguarding important records before a disaster, and a list of suggestions to reconstruct personal and business records lost in a disaster, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Disaster Package, California Society of Enrolled Agents, 3200 Ramos Circle, Sacramento, California 95827.

- Gannett News Service

The Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Disaster and Emergency Services Division. It is funded, in part, by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Contributions of articles and ideas are welcome. The deadlines for submitting articles for the 1997 newsletter are: January 17 for the February issue; May 16 for the June issue; August 15 for the September issue and November 14 for the December issue. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. The articles in this newsletter may not constitute official policy.

Questions regarding articles may be addressed to:
DES Newsletter Editor
Monique T. Lay
P.O. Box 4789
Helena, MT 59604-4789
phone 406-444-6963
or fax 406-444-6965

On Thursday, February 27 at 3:15 pm, DES will conduct a workshop called "*Internet and Emergency Management*". If you are familiar with the **World Wide Web**, you are aware of the vast amounts of information available to you at the click of a mouse. However, if you are intimidated by going online, try visiting these addresses. They will introduce you to some fun "stuff" you can find and may hopefully ease your apprehensions. If you are a regular surfer, you will find these addresses both fun and maybe even useful.

Sports

Interzine: A site for sports fans, specifically snow sports and golf. From how-to tips to snow conditions, skiers can get the inside info by visiting the site's iSKI area. If you are into golf, you can find tournament news and information for courses located throughout the world.

<http://www.interzine.com/>

Ski Conditions and Information: Provides up-to-date information for over 200 North American ski areas.

<http://outside.starwave.com:80/places/skiarea/index.html>

NFL.com: Are you bored now that football season is over? Statistics, injury reports, photographs, complete schedules and even biographies of both coaches and players are available on this huge site provided by NFL.

<http://www.nfl.com/>

Holidays

Greet Street: If shopping for greeting cards falls just below on your list of favorite things to do, shop here. This site offers hundreds of greeting cards for all occasions. You can peruse and order right from your computer. If your recipient is online, send them the automated version!

<http://www.greetst.com>

The Home of Christmas on the Internet:

Learn how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Photojournalistic essays on people, places, festivals and traditions provide insight to the Christmas season worldwide. A photo gallery which includes associated stories is included as well as a greeting card center. And if you need them, recipes and cooking tips for the holidays.

<http://www.christmas95.com/nav.htm>

Education

Earthweek: Track the natural events and disasters that have occurred during the week throughout the world. Contains graphics, descriptions, lists and photos of the events.

<http://www.slip.net/~earthenv/>

Walt Whitman Home Page: Collections of prints, photos, documents, motions pictures and sound recordings make for a fascinating Library of Congress site. The big attraction is the area containing Walt Whitman's notebooks. Crisp photographs of each page and articles about the strange history of the notebooks. (The collection disappeared in 1942 and turned up again in 1995.)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/wwhome.html>

Shopping

PhotoStore: Having trouble shopping for the person who has everything? Try this site. You can view and purchase famous photographs from the archives of Newsweek and the Washington Post. From presidents to NASA to celebrities, you can purchase reasonably priced prints of the photographs that have wowed the world.

<http://www.photostore.com/>

Virtual Vineyards: If you fancy the finer wines and food selections, this popular site has been around for a while. You can purchase wine by the bottle, case or in food baskets and you can even order, speciality foods such as conserves, chutneys, peppers, mustards olives, coffee, tea and even caviar and steaks. If you have questions you can "Ask the Cork Dork" who will provide answers about wines.

<http://www.virtualvin.com/>

The Toys of Toytropolis: A virtual toy store that claims to sell only interesting, imaginative toys for kids. Brio railroad tracks and trains made out of wood, Anatex bead and wire movable sculptural games and Jewerly Foolery games that let kids string Egyptian-like artifacts and/or tiny wooden animals into necklaces or bracelets. This site also links you to a number of fun and thought-provoking games and toys on the Web.

<http://www.toytropolis.com/>

Small Business

The Business Resource Center: Information for the small-business owner - free publicity, leads, selling products abroad, financing, and using the Internet!

<http://www.kcilLink.com/brc/>

Home Office Association of America: A valuable resource for home-office professionals - taxpayers mistakes to avoid, home-office bill of rights, addresses legal problems on zoning restrictions and even links you to other small-business-oriented sites.

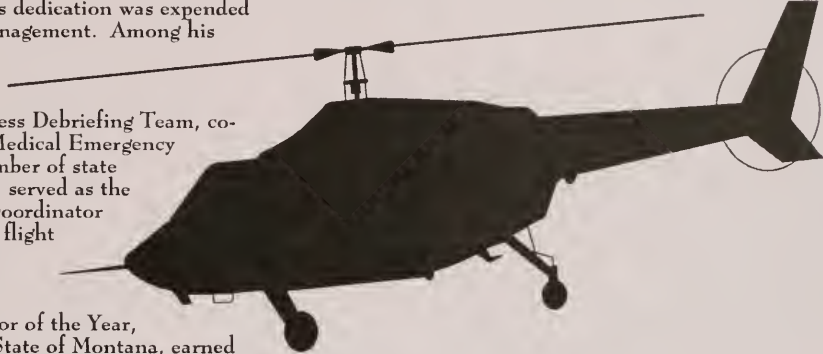
<http://www.hoaa.com/>

A Final Farewell...

Family, friends, and members of the emergency management community bid a sad farewell to Kim Potter who passed away December 14, 1996. For 21 years, Kim served Flathead County as the Disaster & Emergency Services Coordinator, retiring in June, 1996.

With hunting, fishing, hiking, & camping among his personal interests, his selfless dedication was expended in the field of emergency management. Among his many contributions and accomplishments, Kim founded the Flathead County Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, co-founded the Flathead Area Medical Emergency Council F.A.M.E, was a member of state emergency medical activities, served as the Flathead County education coordinator for EMT's, and worked as a flight EMT, Service Officer and Navigator for ALERT for 15 years. In 1983, Kim was awarded Montana Coordinator of the Year, and, one of only five in the State of Montana, earned his certification as an Emergency Manager in 1995. Kim's list of credentials truly reflect his dedication.

Kim is survived by his wife Marie, three sons, five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held at the Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell. If you are interested, memorials are suggested to ALERT, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 599012 - OR - FAME Council or Hospice, 1280 Burns Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.



...Wishing You Well!

William "Bill" Murray became Cascade County's "City-County Civil Defense Director" on January 1, 1968. Previous experience aided in combining his engineering and writing background with the support he received from emergency services to obtain grants. These paid for the first county wide "party line" repeater system, the first UHF police radio system, the first UHF EMS radio system, a Mobile EOC and the capability for all county agencies to intercommunicate through a shared "CD Common" radio system.

At the state level, Bill served as President for the Montana Association of DES Coordinators from 1969 to 1975. As the State Representative to the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management (NCCEM) he won the membership trophy year after year. For over twenty years he served on the state and national "Legislative" committees. He co-authored the "Montana Disaster Act", was elected Region President, and received the first Montana President's Award in 1978.

Bill was appointed to over two dozen special commissions and task forces as FEMA transitioned from a "nuclear preparedness" agency to a comprehensive "emergency management" agency. He contributed to the development of the original 320 hour "Phase Courses", served as President of the American Society of Professional Emergency Planners in 1985, helped create the "Professional Development Series", and implemented the course through training at EMI. Bill often talks about the honor he cherishes the most, being commissioned as a "Kentucky Colonel" by then Governor Martha Layne Collins while instructing at EMI.

A goal of Bill's had long been to establish emergency management as a profession. Through NCCEM, an objective method was developed to identify those who would qualify. The certification program was a major step in that direction and Bill became a certified Emergency Manager in 1994.

Bill will continue to represent the Association for the Public Safety Communication Task Force. Though retired, Bill has stated that he is available, as always, to assist in telecommunications, grant writing and emergency management.

Contributed by: Wilma Puich

30th ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

FEBRUARY 25-28, 1997
COLONIAL INN
HELENA, MONTANA

"BEYOND INITIAL RESPONSE"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1997

1:00 - 2:30 New Coordinators Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1997

8:00 - 8:30 Welcome, Introduction and Overview
Jim Greene, DES Administrator
MG John E. Prendergast, Department of Military Affairs Director
Mayor Colleen McCarthy
Mike Griffith, Chairman, Lewis & Clark County Commissioners

8:30 - 10:00 **Alberton Train Derailment Panel**

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 11:45 **Commissioners Panel - Lessons Learned**

Janet Kelly - Custer county Fires
Bill Merlak - Garfield County Freeman
Fern Hart - Missoula County HazMat and Flooding
Art Kleinjan - Blaine County Flooding
Dan Gutebier - Park County Flooding

11:45 - 1:15 Luncheon - Governor Marc Racicot

1:30 - 2:30 Concurrent Workshops

1. Local Declaration Process & the Two Mill Emergency Levy
- Norman Parrent/Jim Anderson
2. Evacuation - Mike McMeekin - Missoula Sheriff's Office
3. Presentation Skills - Marc Scow - Dept. Administration

2:30 - 2:45 Break

2:45 - 3:45 Concurrent Workshops

1. State and Local EOC Management - Steve Knecht/Cindy Mullaney
2. Local Extended Incidents and ICS - Bob Fry
3. Multi County/Agency Incidents - Chuck O'Reilly

3:45 - 4:00 Break

4:00 - 5:00 Concurrent Workshops

1. Local Extended Incidents and ICS - Bob Fry
2. Public Information - Andy Malcolm
- Linda Williams
3. Financial Management for Extended Incidents - Jane Ellis

6:00 - 7:00 No Host Cocktail

7:00 - 9:00 Banquet - Judy Martz, Lt. Governor

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1997

8:30 - 8:45 Morning Greeting

8:45 - 9:45 FEMA Report - Mike Armstrong, Region VIII Director

9:45 - 10:00 Break

10:00 - 10:45 **Wisconsin Train Derailment** - Rob Rude

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:00 **Emergency Management - 21st Century** - Jim Greene/Wilma Puich

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch on Your Own

Future of Emergency Management in Montana Workshops

1:30 - 3:00 Concurrent Workshops

1. Future Direction - Monique lay
2. Certification Standards - Fred Naeher
3. Emergency Management Coordinators Duties - Ed Gierke

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 - 4:45 Concurrent Workshops

1. ICS for DES Coordinators - Dave Reynolds
2. DES Agency Rep. - Fred Cowie
3. Internet and Emergency Management - Tami Chavez

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1997

8:30 - 8:45 Morning Greeting

8:45 - 9:00 National Weather Service Update - Ken Mielke

9:00 - 9:15 EAS Update - Homer Young

9:15 - 9:45 **Preliminary Damage Assessments Process** - Jim Anderson/Jim Kujawa

9:45 - 10:00 Break

10:00 - 11:00 Future of EM in Montana follow-up - Jim Greene

11:00 - 11:45 Stress/inspiration speaker, etc. - Hal Stearns

"Why do we do what we do?"

11:45 - 12:00 Conference Wrap Up

Rev. 1/13/97

Information Update

Please note the following changes for your directory:

Cascade County:

Royce Shipley, Coordinator

P.O. Box 3127

415 3rd Street Northwest

Great Falls, MT 59403

Business: ☎(406) 454-6900

Cellular: ☎(406) 788-5579

Fax: (406) 454-6903

Mineral County:

24 Hour: ☎(406) 822-3555

Fax: ☎(406) 822-3562

Powder River County:

Dixie L. Mitchell, Coordinator

County Courthouse, Box J

Broadus, MT 59317

Business: ☎(406) 436-2229

Fax: ☎(406) 436-2866

Wheatland County:

Les Christensen, Coordinator

DELETE Cell: ☎(406) 220-5511

Cancellation

XXXXXXX

Due to funding considerations and insufficient pre-registration numbers, both the February Awareness/LEPC Course and the April Grant Writing Course have been canceled.

XXXXXXX

Don't Forget!

Department of Military Affairs

Disaster and Emergency Services Division

30th Annual Governor's Conference

Helena, Montana

February 24-28

Beyond Initial Response

*Happy
Valentine's
Day! ♥*

**Would you like to become a First
Responder Awareness Level One Trainer?**

Contact Fred Cowie at

☎(406) 444-6968

Fax: (406) 444-6965

e-mail: <fcowie@mt.gov>

State of Montana

Disaster & Emergency Services Division

P.O. Box 4789

1100 North Main

Helena, Montana 59604-4789

☎(406) 444-6911

fax (406) 444-6965

First Class

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